



The Sinner's Guide

Louis of Granada , Paul A. Böer Sr. (Editor)

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Venerable Louis of Granada Venerable Louis of Granada was the favorite spiritual writer of St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Rose of Lima; and The Sinner's Guide (along with The Book of Prayer and Meditation) is one of his two most famous and most popular books.

St. Teresa of Avila stated that this work of Venerable Louis converted over 1,000,000 souls in her day. She, along with St. John of the Cross, St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Rose of Lima, all counted it among their favorite spiritual books.

"We are all destined to one or the other," says Ven. Louis, "either to reign eternally with God in Heaven or to burn eternally with the devils in Hell." This inescapable fact is vividly brought to life on every page of this masterfully written book. Utterly realistic with regard to the ultimate end of human life, Venerable Louis of Granada presents here the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell - even rehearsing with the reader the day of his death and the moment of his judgment. His description of the despair in Hell will shake loose any desire, by even the most hardened sinner, to persevere in sin. Man's classic excuses, such as planning to convert later and the difficulty of practicing virtue, are thoroughly demolished. Moreover, Ven. Louis shows how the sinner's life, because of his gnawing conscience, is a continual torment to him even while still on this earth. Whereas, the practice of virtue brings the wonderful promise of Heaven, plus the beautiful joy of a clear conscience, and the many other marvelous advantages of holiness -even here in this life! The Sinner's Guide is a book of crystal clarity which cuts through the religious fog so prevalent today. It strips away the glamour of sin, fortifying the soul for the resolute practice of the Christian virtues-those true riches which alone will accompany him beyond the grave.

The Sinner's Guide Details

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From Reader Review The Sinner's Guide for online ebook

William Rabjohn says

This is a great classical work on overcoming sinful behavior.

Erik says

Included in the "Spiritual Reading" section of Fr. John McCloskey's 100-book Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan.

Diane says

One of the best books I ever read

Having just completed "The Sinner's Guide" after a very slow read (a chapter or two per day), I can see why St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis de Sales, and so many others, leaned on this book. I especially loved his discussions on the virtues near the end. It was the icing on the cake, and a shot in the arm. If you want to learn Catholic spirituality, read this book slowly and meditate as you go. Be sure to pray to Ven. Louis and the saints for help with understanding it all.

Tasi Scanlon says

Beautiful work !!

Loved the presentation of God's kingdom based on Holy Scriptures using reason and a language that is easily to follow. To God be the glory and I will be seeking other spiritual works of this author to meditate and contemplate.

Ryan says

In Venerable Louis of Granada's "The Sinner's Guide," the reader is brought to absolute certainty about the importance and attainability of a life of virtue. The first part consists of 12 reasons to practice virtue (with 12 further reasons contained in the 12th reason -- O Dominicans!) -- e.g. God's majesty, his creation and preservation of the world (and you!), his works of salvation, the final things prepared for each soul (death, judgment, hell, heaven), and the temporal benefits of virtue. This part takes the lion's share of the book. Then, he dispels with some common excuses for not practicing virtue: "I'll wait until I'm on my death-bed," "I'll start some other time," "It'll be too hard," and the like. He then gives the reader remedies to overcome all 7 of the deadly sins, as well as some lesser, but no less noxious, vices (e.g. distraction, rash judgment). Lastly, he teaches about the virtues with regard to God, Man, and Oneself, with one final exhortation to practice diligence and courage in the life of virtue.

I can say, with all candidness, that this must be one of the most useful, practical guides to leading a life of virtue. Brimming with examples from the scriptures, fathers, saints, even philosophers, Ven. Louis disabuses his reader of any misconceptions and gently pushes them forward to serve God with virtue. The book makes for excellent meditation material, so that thought can be converted into action. An absolutely incredibly read which I am blessed to have encountered.

Walter says

This book, written by the relatively unknown Bl. Louis de Granada, a contemporary of St. Teresa de Avila, is a hidden gem of Catholic spirituality. This book is written for the Catholic layperson, the one who does not take his faith seriously and is looking for more meaning in his life. In this regard, this book is similar to St. Francis de Sales' "Introduction to the Devout Life". In many ways, the reader of the "Sinner's Guide" will find many similarities between it and the "Introduction". They are both written in very easy to understand language. They are both full of quotes from both holy and secular authors. They both draw tremendous comparisons between the spiritual life and the natural world. And they both inspire the lukewarm Christian to deepen his spirituality and his commitment to God.

This is one of those books that should be read slowly by serious Catholics on a regular basis. This year I read it as part of my Advent devotion, and I may make this an annual tradition. It is a wonderful way to examine your life and see if you are living out your faith to the fullest. I would highly recommend this book to any Christian who wants to deepen their faith and strengthen their commitment to God.

James Andersen says

This book is very helpful, its an intermediate read for those new to Faith, there's simplicity but also depth which makes this book vital for people to read. The book starts out with the reasons and benefits of living a virtuous grace-filled life, then goes into the various vices that may obstruct the development of Virtue, some more egregious but some that most are not too mindful of. Then he goes into the Virtues themselves, differentiating the external and interior virtues: the latter give reason for the former, but the former also help to give context to the later. He then goes into two vital virtues needed in all ages to live out all these virtues (Courage and Vigilance) and how to adopt these to ones station in life. Overall, this book is not a book you read once and put away, its one that you will refer to again and again, I recommend meditating on these a chapter a time.

Stephen says

If I had only one book to read the rest of my life, it would be this one. If we could give 10 stars, I'd give it 10. The most important book I've ever read and will re-read it almost immediately. A lot of errors (sins) could have been avoided if only I had read this early on in my life. Written almost 500 years ago and it is as true now as it was then. It will remain so of that I am confident.

Jeff Cann says

A great book that will help you grow closer to God.

Susan says

Love, love, love this. I bought three more for my husband and children. To me it is a very special, important book to have, read and re-read.

Galicius says

I was somewhat indifferent to the first chapters of this avowed spiritual classic but it didn't take long to get more involved in what I was reading. Chapter 7, subtitled "The Thought of Death, the First of the Four Last Things", finally hit me hard. This manual only gets better as you explore it (and yourself).

Introduction by Father Alvaro Herga, OP gives a good description of the book: "a masterwork of Aristotelian symmetry and the most scholastic work of Fray Louis, a book that covers from myriad angles the virtues of the Christian life, proving that this life is the only way to true happiness (even on earth)."
